

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 8-10, 18, 20-22, 30-33, 36-37. Please amend claims 1, 3, 10, 13, 15, 20 and 24. Please add new claims 42-54. The claims are as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for tracking computer-related assets, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting each asset of said assets independently from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset;

receiving a new asset of said assets at a central site, moving said assets being moveable between a from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites only by being routed through said a central site, and said assets not being moveable directly from [[a]] the first site to [[a]] the second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset;

assigning a unique identifier to each said asset;

recording the location of each said asset with respect to said central site in an electronic database; and on each movement of said asset:

recording exit of the each asset from the a current site in said database;

recording an intended destination site in said database; and

verifying entry of the each asset at the destination site, being a new current location, in said database.

2. (Canceled)

09/657,039

2

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, comprising the further steps of:  
for each asset, recording configuration information relevant to that asset on said database;  
and  
on each configuration of a said asset at said central site, updating said configuration  
information on said database.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said configuration information of said  
assets comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, including the further step, occurring upon return of an asset  
to said central site, of determining whether said asset should be retained, and thus stored for  
further use, or withdrawn from use.

8-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A tracking system for computer-related assets, comprising:  
an electronic database for storage of current and intended location information relating to  
said assets, said assets being moveable between a plurality of sites only by being routed through a  
central site and not being moveable directly from a first site to a second site of the plurality of  
sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a

09/657,039

3

computer hardware asset and a computer software asset; and

a central receiving and storage site where new assets are received and stored, and where assets returning from other sites are stored, said central site having data entry means, linked to said database in which a unique identifier assigned to each said asset is stored and, upon a movement of a said asset, by which exit or entry of the asset is recorded such that both the respective current and intended location information is updated in said database,

wherein a first asset of said assets is a computer software asset that is tagged with a tag, said tag comprising an asset tag barcode, a part number or serial number barcode, and a Software Distribution System (SDS) number, said SDS number comprising first, second, and third contiguously sequenced fields, said first field consisting of a venue code identifying a first destination site for the first asset, said second field consisting of a software type of the first asset, said third field consisting of a consecutive number index of the software type that makes the first asset unique for the software type at the first destination site.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) The tracking system of claim [[14]] 13, wherein said database stores, for each asset, configuration information relevant to that asset, and said data entry means further updates said database records upon each configuration of an asset.

16. (Original ) The tracking system of claim 15, wherein said configuration information includes hardware configuration, software configuration and IP address.

09/657,039

4

17-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently amended) A computer program product, carried on a storage medium, for the tracking of computer-related assets, between a central site and a plurality of sites, comprising:

first program means to record a unique identifier for each said asset, said assets being moveable between said plurality of sites only by being routed through said central site and not being moveable directly from a first site to a second site of the plurality of sites, each asset of said assets being independently selected from the group consisting of a computer hardware asset and a computer software asset;

second program means to record the location of an asset;

third program means to record exit from a current site;

fourth program means to record an intended destination; and

fifth program means to verify entry of an asset being moved at the destination site,

whereupon said second program means updates the current location of the asset,

wherein a first asset of said assets is a computer software asset that is tagged with a tag, said tag comprising an asset tag barcode, a part number or serial number barcode, and a Software Distribution System (SDS) number, said SDS number comprising first, second, and third contiguously sequenced fields, said first field consisting of a venue code identifying a first destination site for the first asset, said second field consisting of a software type of the first asset, said third field consisting of a consecutive number index of the software type that makes the first asset unique for the software type at the first destination site.

09/657,039

5

25. (Original) The computer program product of claim 24, further comprising:

sixth program means to record and update configuration information for each asset being tracked.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein on each movement of said asset the method further comprises faxing a delivery summary from the central site to the intended destination for said asset prior to said exit of said asset from the central site, said delivery summary comprising advance notification that said asset is to be delivered to said intended destination.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein after arrival of said asset at said intended destination the method further comprises installing and testing said asset at said intended destination.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

09/657,039

6

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein on each movement of said asset the method further comprises faxing a delivery summary from the central site to the intended destination for said asset prior to said exit of said asset from the central site, said delivery summary comprising advance notification that said asset is to be delivered to said intended destination.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein after arrival of said asset at said intended destination the method further comprises installing and testing said asset at said intended destination.

34. (Previously presented) The tracking system of claim 13, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

35. (Previously presented) The tracking system of claim 13, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

36. (Previously presented) The tracking system of claim 18, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

09/657,039

7

37. (Previously presented) The tracking system of claim 18, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

38. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer software.

39. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein at least one asset of said assets consists of computer hardware.

40. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said configuration information of said assets comprises a software configuration.

41. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein said configuration information of said assets comprises an IP (Internet Protocol) address.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein a first asset of said assets is a computer software asset that is tagged with a tag, said tag comprising an asset tag barcode, a part number or serial number barcode, and a Software Distribution System (SDS) number, said SDS number comprising first, second, and third contiguously sequenced fields, said first field consisting of a venue code identifying a first destination site of the plurality of sites for the first asset, said second field consisting of a software type of the first asset, said third field consisting of a consecutive number index of the software type that makes the first asset unique for the software type at the first

09/657,039

8

destination site

43. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the first field consists of 3 alphabetical characters, wherein the second field consists of 2 hexadecimal characters, and wherein the third field consists of 2 characters representing an integer.

44. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the central site comprises a warehouse facility and a build facility, said method further comprising:

storing, by the warehouse facility, individual assets until the individual assets are required to be assembled into computer systems for use at sites of the plurality of sites; and

assembling, by the build facility, the individual assets into the computer systems.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, said method further comprising providing the warehouse facility and the build facility in a same building complex.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, said method further comprising providing the warehouse facility and the build facility in different locations not in a same building complex.

47. (New) The method of claim 44, said method further comprising determining by execution of software whether a given asset of said assets is located at a site of the plurality of sites, in the build facility, in the warehouse, or in transit.

09/657,039

9

48. (New) The tracking system of claim 13, wherein the first field consists of 3 alphabetical characters, wherein the second field consists of 2 hexadecimal characters, and wherein the third field consists of 2 characters representing an integer.

49. (New) The tracking system of claim 13, wherein the central site comprises a warehouse facility and a build facility, wherein the warehouse facility stores individual assets until the individual assets are required to be assembled into computer systems for use at sites of the plurality of sites, and wherein the build facility assembles the individual assets into the computer systems.

50. (New) The tracking system of claim 49, wherein the warehouse facility and the build facility are in a same building complex.

51. (New) The tracking system of claim 49, wherein the warehouse facility and the build facility are in different locations not in a same building complex.

52. (New) The tracking system of claim 49, said tracking system further comprises software which, when executed, determines whether a given asset of said assets is located at a site of the plurality of sites, in the build facility, in the warehouse, or in transit.

53. (New) The computer program product of claim 24, wherein the first field consists of 3 alphabetical characters, wherein the second field consists of 2 hexadecimal characters, and

wherein the third field consists of 2 characters representing an integer.

54. (New) The computer program product of claim 53, wherein the central site comprises a warehouse facility and a build facility, wherein the warehouse facility stores individual assets until the individual assets are required to be assembled into computer systems for use at sites of the plurality of sites, wherein the build facility assembles the individual assets into the computer systems, said computer program product further comprising sixth program means to determine whether a given asset of said assets is located at a site of the plurality of sites, in the build facility, in the warehouse, or in transit.